

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 59

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 183

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 59—Relative to Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 16, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 59, Baca. Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to qualify automatically persons with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome (RSDS) for Social Security disability benefits upon proper diagnosis and progression to a state of disability.

WHEREAS, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome (RSDS) is a heinous autonomic neurological disease that causes severe burning pain, extreme sensitivity to touch, swelling, excessive sweating, and deterioration of the skin, tissue, muscles, and bones; and

WHEREAS, RSDS usually affects the arms and legs, but can affect any part of the body; and

WHEREAS, There are an estimated 6,000,000 people in the United States with this disease and, thus, it is not a rare disease; and

WHEREAS, The unremitting pain of RSDS has caused many people much physical and emotional misery; and

WHEREAS, There is no reason for these people to also suffer financial devastation and additional misery; and

WHEREAS, Under federal law, each person with RSDS who applies for Social Security disability insurance is considered on an individual basis and by the time benefits are awarded, it may take as long as three years; and

WHEREAS, In the interim, savings, belongings, and homes are lost and the stress from this financial devastation, along with the terrible pain, often results in the individual becoming severely depressed; and

WHEREAS, This financial misery could be lessened or averted if victims of RSDS qualified immediately for Social Security disability insurance benefits upon proper diagnosis and progression to a state of disability; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the California Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to qualify automatically persons with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome (RSDS) for Social

Security disability insurance benefits upon proper diagnosis and progression to a state of disability; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

